touched nothing that he did not master. He possessed critical genius, the native acumen that penetrated to the heart of a subject, be it crystal-gazing, exogamy, or the Casket Letters.

His delicate taste as a poet and critic attracted me long before I came face to face with him in the ruder matters of primitive sociology. But in both, as also in the history of cricket and of golf, he always hit the mark. His touch for crucial points was infallible. In one line he gives us the essence of Artemis the huntress—

"And through the dim wood Dian threads her way ' ;

in one sentence he exposed the central problem of exogamy, the bisection of the tribe.

Unnoticed before, this last proposition served him as the basis of his most fruitful work as an anthropologist. His exposition of his cousin's "Primal Law" will always remain a classic.

His "Myth, Ritual and Religion" was the first book to oppose academic sociology with the facts of modern savage-life. With its simple but irresistible logic, he was able to check for ever the extravagances of Max Müller's school. Ceaseless criticism, invaluable in its results, was carried on in this department of science. As a polemical writer he was urbane, though apt to be diffuse. As a historian, in spite of his hatred of modernism, he was modern in his logical fairness and his grip of essentials.

Few things are more charming than some of his poems and short stories. The latter are often, as witness "In the Wrong Paradise," both humorous and scholarly. His love of Greece and of the past was perhaps a defect of his quality. But Lang's mind was great, Homeric. It made him both critic and artist, and as either he is a loss.

A. E. CRAWLEY.

THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

AS the celebrations in connection with the anniversary of the Royal Society were in progress at the time of our going to press last week, we were unable on that occasion to do more than print the names of the foreign delegates and those of the British Dominions beyond the seas, and to give extracts from some of the speeches delivered at the reception and the City banquet. The programme arranged was carried through without alteration, and passed off satisfactorily. The garden party at Syon House was largely attended, and about 1000 persons were present at the conversazione, which was held in the rooms of the society on Wednesday night, when several interesting historical instruments were exhibited, among which mention may be made of the chronometer by Arnold used by Captain James Cook on his second and third voyages, an electrical machine constructed by Dr. Joseph Priestley, the original model of Sir Humphry Davy's miners' safety lamp, a pair of compasses which belonged to Sir Christopher Wren, and Newton's original account of his reflecting telescope.

At the garden party given by the King and Queen at Windsor on Thursday, the President, other officers of the Society, members of the Council, and the delegates were introduced to their Majesties.

We are glad to know that the delegates are returning home full of appreciation of the hospitalities which had been extended to them and their wives and daughters. The latter were the especial care of a ladies' committee: although the members of this committee are not named in the official programme, we are informed that Lady Bradford, Lady Crookes, Lady Lockyer, Lady Parsons, and Lady Ramsay were among the most active among them.

The proceedings were appropriately brought to a conclusion on Friday by the conferment of the honorary degree of Doctor of Science on eleven of the delegates from abroad by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the recipients being—at Oxford—Prof. J. O. Backlund, director of the Imperial Observatory, Pulkowa; Dr. W. C. Brogger, professor of mineralogy and geology in the University of Christiania and rector of the university; Dr. W. B. Scott, Blair professor of geology and palæontology in Princeton University; Dr. W. Waldeyer, professor of anatomy and director of the Anatomical Institute in the University of Berlin; Dr. P. Zeeman, professor of physics in the University of Amsterdam; and—at Cambridge—Prof. E. B. Frost, director of the Yerkes Observatory; the Marchese Emanuele Paternò di Sessa, professor of chemistry in the University of Rome; Prof. Pavlov, St. Petersburg University; Prof. Picard, University of Paris; Geheimer Regierungsrat Rubens, University of Berlin; and Dr. Warming, formerly professor of botany at Copenhagen.

Dr. G. Lippmann, president of the Academy of Sciences, Paris, would also have received the degree at Oxford but for his enforced return to Paris in consequence of the death of Prof. Poincaré.

After the degree ceremony, the company assembled at All Souls' College, where a large party were entertained at lunch by the Warden and Fellows. In the afternoon a garden party was given in the grounds of Wadham College. Wadham College being the scene, during the Commonwealth, of some of the meetings from which the Royal Society afterwards took origin, an exhibition of portraits, books, and other objects of interest illustrating the early history of the society and its connection with Oxford had been arranged in the hall, and was inspected by many of the visitors, each of whom was also presented with a short statement, drawn up by Dr. F. A. Dixey, F.R.S., containing notices of the distinguished members of Wadham College (Wilkins, Wren, Seth Ward, Rooke, Sprat, Sydenham, Mayow, &c.) who were instrumental in the foundation of the society and in the general scientific movement of the time.

The following is the text of the speeches delivered at Cambridge by the Public Orator, Sir

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John Sandys, in presenting to the Chancellor the several recipients of the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causâ,* on July 19:—

(1) Edwin Brant Frost, professor of astrophysics, Chicago:—

Primum omnium respublica maxima trans oceanum Atlanticum nobis coniunctissima quasi nuntium quendam sidereum ad nos misit, qui lacus maximi in litore astrophysica (ut aiunt) praeclare profitetur, lacus minimi in margine speculae astronomicae celeberrimae praepositus. Ibi, astronomi praeclari, Societatis Regalis haud ita pridem Praesidis, vestigia secutus, stellas, quae inerrantes vocantur, diligenter observavit, et spectri (ut dicitur) auxilio, earum motus aut recedentes aut appropinquantes accurate computavit. Idem, cum collegis optimis consociatus, stellas duplices atque etiam multiplices plurimas detexit; siderum denique illorum praesertim, quorum in aëre helium inesse comprobatum est, primus tarditatem quandam motus demonstravit. Astronomo autem nostro, viro impigro, viro acerrimo, tarditatem mentis nemo exprobrabit. Etenim, talium virorum auxilio, "caelum ipsum petimus," non iam "stultitia,"[1] sed sapientia; atque, ut philosophi cuiusdam Romani verbis utar, "cogitatio nostra caeli munimenta perrumpit."[2]

(2) Marchese Emanuele Paternò di Sessa, professor of chemistry, Rome:—

Ex Italia ad nos advectus est regni Italici Britannis amicissimi senator, coronae Italicae eques clarissimus, qui, Palermi natus, Romae per annos quadraginta scientiam chemicam experimentis suis luculenter illustravit. Peritis notum est hunc virum olim benzenii potissimum progeniem explorasse,—benzenii, quod matris haud pulchrae filiam, filiarum autem suavium et pulchrarum matrem nominaverim. Notum est eundem postea corpora ex fluorino, elemento illo impigro, composita, penitus investigasse; in aliis denique elementis, bromio praesertim et phosphoro liquido, particularum pondera accuratius examinasse. Ceterum haec omnia scientiae ad mysteria intima pertinent, non a nobis vixdum initiatis divulganda. Etenim e scriptoribus Romanis unus ait, "omnium rerum sunt quaedam in alto secreta"[3]; alter autem, "facilius natura intelligitur quam enarratur."[4]

(3) Ivan Petrovitch Pavlov, professor of physiology, St. Petersburg:—

Russorum ex imperio maximo, a nobis remoto sed studiorum communium in vinculis vicino, ad nos venit physiologiae professor Petroburgensis, qui ciborum digerendorum rationem universam exploravit, his studiis officinam quandam dedicavit, physiologiae studiosorum scholam florentissimam fundavit. Ut alia omittam, quam pulchre ostendit sucos illos, qui cibo concoquendo inserviunt, non modo mentis motu vario etiam ipsos moveri et mutari, sed etiam unicuique ciborum generi esse accommodatos, atque omnibus elementis noxiis adversari et in contrariam partem fortiter contendere. Mentis quidem certamen Prudentii in carmine quodam heroico narratum vidimus; corporis autem certamen, mentisque et corporis societatem intimam ab hoc viro celebratam audivimus. Talium virorum ex studiis Cornelii Celsi praecepto illi melius obtemperare possumus: *ante omnia corporis sui naturam quisque norit.*[5]

(4) Charles Émile Picard, professor of higher analysis, Paris:—

Francogallorum respublica nobis vicina, et vinculis indies artioribus nobiscum coniuncta, hospitem ad nos misit mathematicum insignem, mathematici insignis (olim cum studii eiusdem antesignanis Cantabrigiensibus consociati) et generum et operum eius editorem praestantissimum. Reipublicae autem illi hodie propterea praesertim gratulamur, quod talium virorum consilium, populi totius cum fructu, totiens expetit. Primum, abhinc annos quattuor et viginti, praemium ex eadem studiorum provincia reportavit, quam in Scandinavia Abelius primus illustraverat. Idem, scientiarum Academiae Parisiensi nuper praepositus, quamquam argumentorum in genere quodam abstruso versatur, stili lucidi lumine libros suos omnes illustravit. Testis est opus praeclarum de scientiae statu hodierno ad sensum popularem accommodatum; testes sunt Analytica illa, etiam a iuventute Britannica libenter perlecta; testes etiam illae de methodi analyticae historia Angliae novae in Universitate quadam nova nuper habitae orationes. Ergo in uno eodemque viro et mathematici illustris et oratoris optimi habetis exemplar.

(5) Heinrich Rubens, professor of physics, Berlin:—

Germanorum ex imperio maximo, nobis utinam in perpetuum coniunctissimo, ad nos perlatus est scientiae physicae in Universitate Berolinensi professor, qui, luce cotidiana non contentus, etiam lucem illam, quae oculorum aciem fugit, assidue exploravit. Lucem quidem universam ex undis constare electricis, rationibus exquisitis ductus, Maxwellius noster olim praedixit; idque et sui ipsius et aliorum experimentis postea prorsus comprobatum est. Hic autem, rem ipsam denuo aggressus, placitis Maxwellianis maxime congruas, lucis undas longas est dimensus, illis quidem multo longiores quae erant antea cognitae, sed illis aliquanto breviores quas vis electrica per artem adhibita generare potuit. Sed, inter has duas undarum varietates penitus exploratas, iam restat intervallum perbreve, quo sine dubio (fortasse per hospitem nostrum) propediem expleto, Maxwellii nostri doctrina universa erit patefacta, et, inter tot rerum naturae miracula, etiam lucis leges melius cognoscentur. Dixit olim Miltonus noster, "Lux sacra, salve, prima progenies Dei"; et tu, salve, lucis legum explorator indefesse.

(6) Eugenius Warming, late professor of botany, Copenhagen:—

Regnum Danicum, Scandinaviae pars eximia, cum Britannia vinculis teneris sed eisdem firmissimis coniuncta, misit scientiae botanicae professorem emeritum, qui inter suos horto praefuit admirabilem in modum disposito et ordinato. Idem non modo doctrinae botanicae orbem totum in libro quodam eximio perlustravit, sed etiam, in aliis litterarum monumentis, partes eius nonnullas aut ad Americam Australem aut ad zonae torridae miracula aut ad Floram Arctoam pertinentes subtilius perscrutatus est. In illa vero scientiae tam pulchrae provincia, quae oecologia nuncupatur, viarum novarum explorator exstitit. Unde factum est, ut haec studiorum provincia, non modo in regno Danico, sed etiam inter Francogallos, inter Germanos, in Helvetia, in Britannia, inter populos denique mari Atlantico a nobis divisos, cultoribus indies pluribus patet. Non minus autem quam haec potissimum pars scientiarum naturalium, talium rerum scientia tota munus sibi vindicavit locorum spatiis universum atque adeo orbi terrarum toti conterminum. Ergo hospitibus nostris omnibus, e tot orbis terrarum partibus ad nos hodie allatis, Historiae Naturalis auctoris eruditissimi verba licet sibi confidenter arrogare: "Non unius terrae sed totius Naturae interpretes sumus."[6]

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[1] Hor. *Carm.* i 3, 38.

[2] Seneca, *De Otio*, v 6.

[3] Plin. *N. H.* xvii 29.

[4] Seneca, *Epp.* 121 § 1.

[5] Celsus, *De Medicina*, i 3, "ante omnia norit quisque naturam sui corporis."

[6] Plin. *N. H.* xviii 214.

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